

Media consolidation is making the public airwaves into a tool for huge corporations rather than the public resource the FCC is supposed to manage and protect.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Further, your handling of the recent Janet Jackson/Super-Bowl fiasco was disgraceful. We now live in a climate where a

single-transmitter station has to live in the fear or having a legitimate accident result in a devastating fine while the same law causes the same fine to be a slap on the wrist for a willing infraction by a network. An operator of 1000 transmitter should be subject to 1000x the regulation and 1000x the fines. They do, after all, get 1000x the revenue and 1000x the use of public airwaves.

Thank you.